

Factsheet September 2016

Real-World Protection Test



Whole Product Dynamic

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www.av-comparatives.org

Introduction

This fact sheet¹ is a short overview of the Whole-Product Dynamic Real-World Protection Test results of September 2016. The detailed overall result reports (covering four months each) are released in July and December. Each of the overall result reports will also contain a false-alarm test and will contain the awards the products reached based on their overall scores during the respective five-month period. **For more information about this Real-World Protection Test, please read the details and previous test reports available on <http://www.av-comparatives.org>**

Tested Cases

Our Real-World Protection Test is currently the most comprehensive and complex test available, using a large number of test cases. This year, we are running this test under Microsoft **Windows 7** Home Premium 64 Bit SP1 with up-to-date third-party software (such as Adobe Flash, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Java, etc.). Due to this, finding in-the-field working exploits and running malware is much more challenging than e.g. under Microsoft Windows XP with unpatched/vulnerable third-party applications.

Over the year we evaluate several tens of thousands malicious URLs. Unfortunately, many of these have to be discarded for various reasons. We remove duplicates such as the same malware hosted on different domains or IP addresses, sites already tested, "grey" or non-malicious sites/files, and malware/sites disappearing during the test. Many malicious URLs carrying exploits were not able to compromise the chosen system/applications because of the patch level. This means that the vulnerabilities in the third-party applications on the system were already patched and the exploits could therefore not deliver their malicious payload. Users should be aware that by always keeping their system and third-party applications up-to-date/patched, they can dramatically decrease the risk posed by exploits.

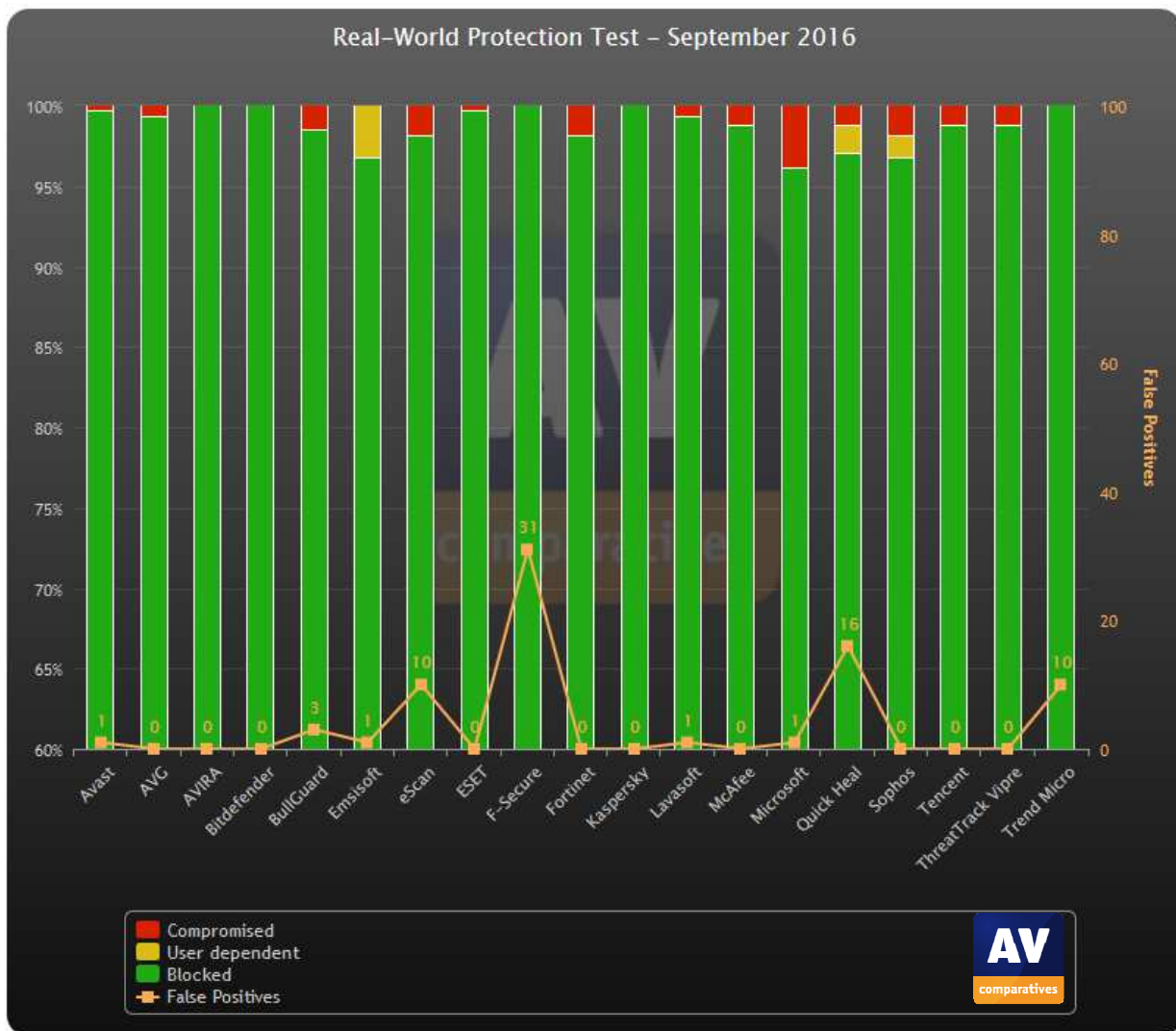
The results are based on the test set of **339** live test cases (malicious URLs found in the field), consisting of working exploits (i.e. drive-by downloads) and URLs pointing directly to malware. Thus exactly the same infection vectors are used as a typical user would experience in everyday life. The test-cases used cover a wide range of current malicious sites and provide insights into the protection given by the various products (using **all** their protection features) while surfing the web.

The following products (latest version available at time of testing) were tested: Avast Free Antivirus 12.3, AVG Internet Security 2016, AVIRA Antivirus Pro 15.0, Bitdefender Internet Security 2016, BullGuard Internet Security 16.0, Emsisoft Anti-Malware 11.10, eScan Internet Security 14.0, ESET Smart Security 9.0, F-Secure Safe 2016, Fortinet FortiClient 5.4, Kaspersky Internet Security 2017, Lavasoft Ad-Aware Pro Security 11.12, McAfee Internet Security 18.0, Microsoft Security Essentials 4.9, Quick Heal Total Security 17.0, Sophos Endpoint Security and Control 10.6, Tencent PC Manager 11.6, ThreatTrack VIPRE Internet Security Pro 9.3 and Trend Micro Internet Security 10.0.

¹ The full detailed report will be released in December.

Graph of protection

Every month (from February to June and from July to November) we update the charts on our website showing the protection rates of the various tested products over the various months. The interactive charts can be found on our website². The chart below shows only the protection scores for the month of SEPTEMBER 2016 (339 test cases). This year, we are including the results of the false-positives test in the monthly factsheets; these are also shown in the graph below.



We would like to point out that while some products may sometimes be able to reach 100% protection rates in a test, it does not mean that these products will always protect against all threats on the web. It just means that they were able to block 100% of the widespread malicious samples used in a test.

² <http://chart.av-comparatives.org/chart1.php>

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